



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

May 4, 2023

May 5th is School Lunch Hero Day!



DESE, Food and Nutrition Services wants to thank and recognize the hard work and dedication of school nutrition professionals. You work hard to provide nutritious and delicious meals to students every day!

**Join SNA and schools across the country in celebrating
School Lunch Hero Day on May 5.**

Planning a great School Lunch Hero Day celebration has never been easier, thanks to the many resources available. Both SNA and School Lunch Hero Day originator Jarrett J. Krosoczka offer a variety of fun and engaging activities, logos and artwork, marketing tools, and festive ideas to make your celebration a party worthy of your heroes.

Wondering how to celebrate? If you're looking for ideas on how to throw the perfect School Lunch Hero Day shindig, SNA has you covered! We've gathered [some tips and suggestions](#) to help make the day even more special.

Summer Workshops 2023

I hope this May newsletter is finding you all well. It's hard to believe that it's already MAY! The song that quickly pops into my head is NSYNC/Justin Timberlake's 'It's gonna be MAY' meme. Although what is on our mind here at the State Agency office is, SUMMER

WORKSHOPS! We have an exciting new agenda planned this summer, and I'm thrilled to see all of you! - *Barbara Shaw, Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services*

Below are tentative dates and locations for the 2023 Summer Workshops. Locations have not been confirmed for all areas:

- **St. Louis Area** **June 28-29**
- **Kansas City Area** **July 26-27**
- **Central Area** **August (date TBD)**

Training hours will be obtained to apply towards Professional Development requirements. You are invited to join our team for a day of in-person training and networking opportunity. During this summer's workshop activities, School Food Service staff will take home lots of big ideas, participate in networking opportunities, and engage in donated foods topics - we have something informative and enjoyable for all. We look forward to seeing all of you this summer!

Registration – COMING SOON!

USDA Announces New Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement with Missouri

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) announced last week that it has signed a cooperative agreement with Missouri for more than \$1.2 million to increase their purchase of nutritious, local foods for school meal programs. Through the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS), DESE will purchase and distribute local and regional foods and beverages for schools to serve children through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. These products will be healthy and unique to their geographic area, with the goal of improving child nutrition and building new relationships between schools and local farmers. Through LFS, DESE will encourage urban and rural schools to apply for funding to promote purchases of local foods for school meal trays and foster proper health and safety habits. This program will create an opportunity for underserved farmers to promote and grow their business as well as create a relationship between schools and local agricultural communities. Read the full [USDA news release here](#).

Local Food for Schools Funding

SAVE
THE
DATE

May 11, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has allocated \$1,250,000 in Local Food For Schools (LFS) funding to the Missouri Department of Education (DESE). This funding is designed to help eligible school food authorities increase local food purchases for school meals. On May 11th DESE, Food and Nutrition Services will be announcing the funding and how schools can apply.



<https://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/food-nutrition-services/farm-school>



Upcoming Webinars

Tuesday, May 9 / 2:00-3:00 pm - Let's Talk Tuesday- Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Funds for Schools

Thursday, May 11 / 1:30-2:30 pm - Local Food for Schools Program Announcement and Farm to School Census. See Save the Date above.

Additional information and links will be emailed at a later date.

LET'S TALK TUESDAY! Supply Chain Assistance

**May 9, 2023
2:00-3:00 PM**

No Registration Needed.
Zoom link will be sent out on
Monday prior to the
presentation



Reminders and Important Information

Seamless Summer Option, Non-congregate Meals for Summer 2023

The PDF for this previous Let's Talk Tuesday on April 25 is now available on the trainings webpage. The recording will be posted soon.

Pandemic Eligibility Transfer Benefits (P-EBT) for Summer 2023

At this time state officials determined that Missouri will **NOT** operate a P-EBT program for Summer 2023. If your LEA would like to notify families to avoid calls and questions please reach out to the families in your district.

Meal Counts and Claiming

We recently added a new page on the DESE, Food and Nutrition Services website in the Quick Links Box titled [Meal Counts and Claims](#). Here you will have easy access to the Claim Processing Instructions, Meal Counting and Claiming Presentation, Daily Participation Record, 60 Day Claim Submission Deadlines, Late Claim Policy and reminders all in one location!

Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to share the availability of the [Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet](#). The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. More information can be found on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

USDA's Proposed Updates to the School Nutrition Standards: Comment Period Extended

Based on the latest nutrition science and feedback from our school meals partners, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is [proposing updates](#) to the school nutrition standards. The proposed rule - [Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) - is the next step in an [ongoing effort](#) toward healthier school meals that USDA and the broader school meals community have been partnering on for over a decade. FNS welcomes your feedback and invites you to comment on the proposed standards. USDA has [extended the public comment period](#) and you can now submit comments through **May 10, 2023**.

New 2023 USDA Farm to School Census Partner Resources Page

In fall 2023, USDA will field the 2023 Farm to School Census, which requests information from school food authorities (SFAs) on their use of local food in school meals and other participation in farm to school activities in school year 2022-23. This nationwide survey is the largest of its kind, collecting information from more than 18,000 public, private, and charter SFAs who participate in the National School Lunch Program.

The new 2023 [Farm to School Census Partner Resources page](#) offers resources to help State agencies, SFAs, and their partners prepare for and complete the 2023 Census. Make sure to bookmark this page and come back for additional resources! **Join the Local Food For Schools Funding webinar on May 11 at 1:30 to hear from USDA Farm to School official on how to prepare for the census.**



USDA Foods Update

Gold Star Account Reminder - Please take a moment to review the commodity foods in your Gold Star "Live Inventory" and place any remaining inventory on order. All items you have processed must be delivered in this school year. Commodity items remaining in

your Gold Star account will be automatically shipped to your school if you have not selected them for delivery.

DOD Funds for Summer School - DOD funds are still available for schools that would like to receive bonus entitlement. Please note:

Schools using the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or NSLP to serve meals during Summer School may continue to use their DOD FFAVORS accounts.

Schools choosing the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to serve meals during summer school are not allowed to utilize their DOD FFAVORS accounts.

Orange Juice 110651 - This brown box item is not available for the 23/24 SY. We do have a small amount of carry-over inventory that we will distribute in August and the first weeks of September. Once that inventory is depleted we will begin sending a different orange juice 100277. This is also a frozen product but it is packaged in cases of 70 cartons versus 96 portion cups. We have calculated adjusted cases based on this difference. The adjusted number of cases for each district that ordered this product will be posted on our USDA Foods website this fall.

Entitlement Balances - As a reminder, SY 22/23 ends June 30th and at that time all unspent entitlement will be swept from district accounts. For districts that have unspent entitlement and would like to utilize it in the next school, you may submit a plan to request entitlement be returned to be utilized in the 23/24 school year for Net Off Invoice purchases. The plan must contain specific products, number of cases and entitlement necessary to procure those items. All requested entitlement must be used by October 2023. Also, carry over entitlement cannot interfere with your use of 23/24 entitlement. Email your Entitlement Carry-Over Plan to donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Donated Foods Summer Workshop Sessions - As we plan our summer workshops, our Donated Foods Team will be offering more training on Net Off Invoice and Fee For Service processing options as well as K12 and Processor Link for tracking commodity pounds, and our Gold Star Warehouse software. Look for more information on dates and locations coming soon!



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